

Scientific Note

Pteroloma nebrioides Brown in Idaho (Coleoptera: Agyrtidae)

Pteroloma nebrioides Brown was initially described from southeastern British Columbia, and recorded from a number of sites throughout British Columbia, western Alberta, and one site in northwest Montana. Distribution, taxonomy, and biology, have been reported by R. Anderson and S. Peck (1985, The Insects and Arachnids of Canada, Part 13, The Carrion Beetles of Canada and Alaska, Coleoptera: Silphidae and Agyrtidae, 121 p). Their single United States record is from Glacier National Park, Montana (R. Anderson, pers. comm.).

Here, I report this species from two new localities in the United States, thus representing a significant range extension and a new state record. Distribution of this species is now extended approximately 400 km southwest of Glacier National Park. Specimens have been collected at: IDAHO (NEW STATE RECORD), Clearwater County, Isabella Creek, 43 km NNE of Headquarters, T41N R7E s.31 NESW, 518 m, 21.IX.1984 (1) and 24.VII.1985 (2), P. J. Johnson; and Idaho County, Packer Meadow, 2.4 km E. Lolo Pass, 1585 m, T38N R15E s.15, 25.V.1986 (2) and 30.V.1986 (2), P. J. Johnson and J. R. LaBonte. A single agyrtid larva was collected at Isabella Creek with two adults on 24.VII.1985 and is assumed to be this species. Adult specimens have been deposited in the W. F. Barr Entomological Museum, University of Idaho, and my personal collection. The larva is with A. F. Newton, Jr., Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Isabella Creek is in the Clearwater mountains, a western extension of the Bitterroot Range, at a site dominated by western red cedar (*Thuja plicata* Donn.). Grand fir (*Abies grandis* (Dougl.) Forbes) and western white pine (*Pinus monticola* Dougl.) dominate the steep surrounding slopes. Specimens collected were found under moss coated cobbles on silty-sand in a highwater channel which is lateral and parallel to the main stream channel. The site is densely shaded by red alder (*Alnus rubra* Bong.), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus* Nutt.), devil's club (*Oplopanax horridum* (Smith) Miq.), and ladyfern (*Athyrium filix-femina* (L.) Roth), and is cool and humid on warm summer days. Isabella Creek is a large second order stream with a moderate gradient initiating in subalpine elevations, but largely flowing through dense mesophytic mixed conifer forest on steep mountainous terrain. The water is cold and undoubtedly assists in maintaining a cool temperature regime in the adjacent vegetation which produces heavy, day-long shade.

Packer meadow is a natural, wet, subalpine frost pocket surrounded by subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* (Hook.) Nutt.), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* Dougl.) and Englemann spruce (*Picea englemannii* Parry) forest, near the crest of the Bitterroot Range. The meadow flora is composed largely of Camas lily (*Camassia quamash* (Pursh) Greene), bistort (*Polygonum bistortoides* Pursh) and sedges (*Carex* spp.); with occasional shrubs of bog birch (*Betula glandulosa* Michx.) and Labrador-tea (*Ledum glandulosum* Nutt.). Winter snow packs are often deep (3-4 m), with final snowmelt usually complete by mid-June, but soil temperatures are cold-to-the-touch until July. A meandering stream and small island-like stands of mature subalpine fir and Englemann spruce characterize the meadow, with these trees providing windfall

logs and limbs under which all specimens were collected on fine to moderately coarse, decomposed organic matter.

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